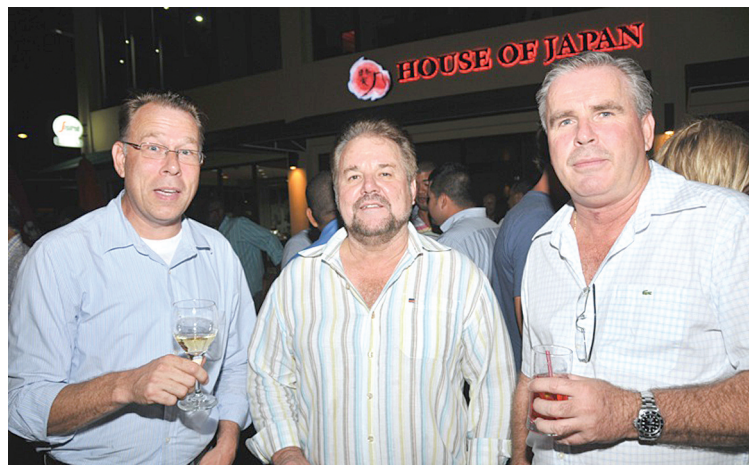


Café de Pijp has opened its doors at the South Beach Center – Palm Beach!



PALMBEACH - On Wednesday 15th of July, 2009, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator. Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a lot of experience with this kind of

specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor,




don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.

Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day. For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with

this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well! We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! ☐





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of petroleum**

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Het Binnenhuys displays art pieces at Moka's

See them Tuesday & Fridays evenings at Paseo Herencia Mall



By Jan Falcone
PALM BEACH - On Tuesday and Friday evenings, interior decorator Karin Martens is at Moka's at Paseo Herencia Mall to display some of the lovely

works of original art that she carries in her beautiful home decor store, Het Binnenhuys, located on Avenida Milio Croes in Dakota.

At Paseo she and fellow artists bring paintings, jewelry and other adornments, home fashion and original crafts - by local artists.

Mo Mohammed and son, local musicians, provide the beat and the atmosphere.

Moka's is a popular coffee shop with the most mouth-watering cakes and sweets by Chris of Cake-Out. Paseo Herencia is a brand new mall across from the Holiday Inn. Be sure to stop by before 9:30 on Saturdays or Tuesday evenings to savor a delicious dessert or just to look at the beautiful original pieces. □



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A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas

Tapas & Charcoal Grill

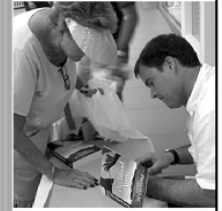
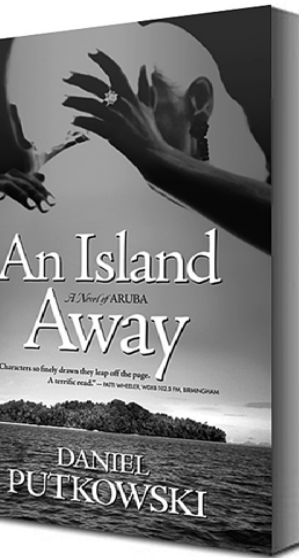
The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Reservation recommended
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154

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Samsom Bookstore - Antraco Retail Center
Antraco Bazaar - Casa Del Mar
Ocean Drive - Aruba Marriott Resort

Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club
Mistral - La Cabana
Red Sail Sports - Hyatt Regency Resort
Red Sail Sports - Port of Call
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Guests recognized at the Divi Phoenix Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Phoenix Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here,

are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism



Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Phoenix Resort they call their home away from home. Linda Caldwell was honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for more

then 20 years and Beverly & Mindi Meyer were honored as Distinguished Visitors. Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also Lillian from the Divi Phoenix Resort. □



Fishes & More
"The Restaurant"

Located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach across from the Occidental Resort.

The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables
The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75

Service charge not included.

For reservations call 586-3659

Loyal friends of Aruba honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites



Ministry of Health

Be a Germ Stopper!



Department of Public Health
Aruba

Welcome to Aruba

To enjoy your vacation it is important to prevent becoming sick.

To keep you and everyone around you safe, practice the following good health habits

1. Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Cover your mouth and nose

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

3. Clean your hands

Washing your hands often will protect you from germs.

4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

5. Practice other good health habits

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

6. Feeling sick?

Please call 588-7381 / 588-7130



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Renaissance Ocean Suites vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Renaissance Ocean Suites they call their home away from home. Ruby Jackson & Gloria Herndon were honored as AmbassadorS of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for more then 20 years and Steve & Harriet Doolittle were honored as Distinguished Visitors.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also Linda from the Renaissance Ocean Suites. □





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Play with "The Card" and get one (1) coupon for every 25 points accumulated. Fill out and deposit your coupons in the "tombolas" located at Crystal or Seaport Casino.

The drawings will take place each week at 8 PM according to the following schedule:

July 9th	Crystal	AWG 7500
July 16th	Seaport	AWG 7500
July 23th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
July 30th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
August 6th	Crystal	AWG 7500
August 13th	Seaport	AWG 7500
August 20th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
August 27th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 3rd	Crystal	AWG 7500
September 10th	Seaport	AWG 7500
September 17th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 24th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay

For more information please call: 523-6318 of 523-6437
Winner must be present at the drawing with valid ID to claim their prize.



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INDOOR & OPEN AIR

Free Salsa workshop for everybody

Smashing SALSA NIGHT at Bugaloe Beach Bar



workshop by ArubaSalsa with the PM Band live in concert!

With motto 'Everybody can dance!' Bugaloe Beach Bar and ArubaSalsa dance school are offering this workshop free of charge!

Aruba visitors as well as local residents will have the opportunity tonight to experience the true meaning of Latin dancing. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the ins and outs of Salsa and Merengue dancing. In no time you will advance yourself to the dance floor. Or if you prefer, you can watch your friends' dance moves from the bar. Fun guaranteed!

"Bugaloe means fun, friend and happiness! With this workshop everybody can now experience the true joy of Latin-American dancing,"



PALM BEACH - Last night just after sundown, everyone with a feeling for rhythm or anyone interested in Salsa and Merengue music danced the night away at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. A new edition of Bugaloe's Salsa Night will take place with a free Salsa & Merengue



Bugaloe's manager Myrthe Veltman says. The free workshop will be from 7:30pm till 8:30pm. The swinging PM band will perform live from 7:00pm till 11:00pm. It promises to be another crazy

'must-go' night at Bugaloe. No entrance fee!

Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is located at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort. □



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Every Friday Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must

Experience the fun and excitement of sailing Mexican-style aboard one of Red Sail Sports' luxurious catamarans. The 2-hour sail takes you along Aruba's scenic coastline, while being delighted by live Mariachi Music.

This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch

the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



Mexican Fiesta

Board one of our luxurious catamarans for a Mexican Fiesta!

Includes:

- Live Mariachi Band
- Mexican food
- Open bar with tequila, Coronita's and Margarita's

Adults \$59
Kids (3-11) \$29
plus sales tax

Every Friday 6-8pm

Book Now!
Call 583-1603

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Tonight, enjoy a 10% discount. Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses. Tonight, every lady gets a free Sushi.

Call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge.

At the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn



Nobushi now offers takeout and delivery starting at 11 am.
Call: 594-7395 or 592-7711

Don't miss the live Flamenco show on Fridays Head downtown to Casa Tua Barcelona for Lunch & Dinner

ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in-and outside seating. The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the 3-course



special for \$19.95. All nights we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you should choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our

home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. Of course we saved the best for



last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Casa Tua Barcelona
Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695
Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470



First all Natural Beef Burger only at Subway

Subway launches "A SPARKLE OF INDULGING TASTE"

ORANJESTAD - Between a stadium full of audience gearing up for Sparkling tour Aruba's own version of American Idol, Subway launched it's Angus Steak which come in the form of single, double or triple sandwich.

Giovani Bermudez of Subway upon launching this new product also said to be proud besides Setar Aruba's national telecommunication company to be the main sponsor for this youth targeted event.. Also launching their new slogan of "eat fresh feel good at Subway", also adding that this is the first all natural beef burger with all fresh ingredients.

Get yours today at any of the 8 Subways restaurants on the Island "Eat fresh feel good at Subway"☐



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Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$380 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



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For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
call 586-4686. ☐



Bahamas to host Caribbean Judo Cup

Judo athletes from Barbados, Puerto Rico, The Cayman Islands, the Netherlands Antilles and The Bahamas will face off this weekend in the Caribbean Judo Cup at Loyola Hall on Saturday July 18.

Kick-off time for the event is 1:00 p.m. and the event is expected to run until 4:00 p.m. Trials were held over the weekend to determine who would represent the country against its Caribbean neighbors. The team will consist of Wellington Mullings (73 kg), Chrisnell Cooper (78 kg), D'Arcy Rahming Jr. (66 kg), Cynthia Rahming (52 kg) and Nathan Williams (48 kg). There will also be an open tournament in which some 50 Bahamian athletes as well as American athletes are expected to attend.

In preparation for the event, top American coach Gerald Lafon has been busy training Bahamian athletes at an intensive training camp. He has also been running a national coaches course in which all schools under the Bahamas Judo Federation (BJF) are taking part.

"I am pleased to see the co-operation between schools of the federation. Coaches seem to be eager to learn what steps are necessary to take The Bahamas to the next level," said Coach Lafon. "The athletes in the training camp have improved significantly since I was here a year ago."

The course is being held at BJF schools Island Jujitsu on Carmichael Road and All-Star Family Center on Joe Farrington Road. □

Power Ball Winner \$ 2150,-.



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MUST PLAY THREE (3) HOURS

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Sunday \$10 buy-in \$1,500 (at 5pm)

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S&P has best 3 days since March on earnings optimism

By Leah Schnurr

NEW YORK (Reuters) – U.S. stocks jumped on Wednesday with the S&P 500 racking up its three best days since March, sparked by results from bellwether Intel Corp (INTC.O) that lifted hopes for a rebound in technology spending and improved corporate profitability.

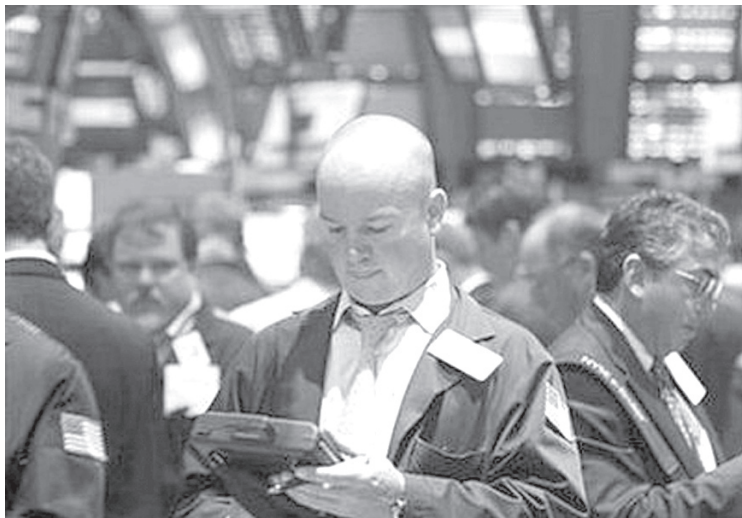
The broad S&P 500 has gained 6.1 percent so far this week as companies, including Intel and Goldman Sachs Group (GS.N), posted much better-than-expected results. It is the biggest three-day gain since the three major U.S. stock indexes began a rebound from 12-year lows in early March. The current earnings season is key as investors look for evidence to support optimism for an economic recovery.

In a sign that consumers might be faring better than feared, U.S. credit card companies said defaults and delinquencies were lower in June than expected. American Express (AXP.N) forecast better business in the second half of the year, pushing its stock up 11.3 percent to \$27.22.

Optimism was further reinforced by manufacturing data that suggested the recession is abating, as well as minutes from the Federal Reserve's most recent policy-setting meeting that showed officials judged that the U.S. economy's contraction was slowing.

But Intel set the tone with earnings that handily beat forecasts on better-than-expected consumer demand for personal computers. It also gave a strong outlook and shares of the world's largest chip maker shot up 7.3 percent to \$18.05.

"Intel is the guts of the



whole technology industry, so when they're talking about consumers getting more active on the PC front, that augurs well for a lot of different things," said David Katz, chief investment officer at Matrix Asset Advisors in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) rose 256.72 points, or 3.07 percent, to 8,616.21. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) gained 26.84 points, or 2.96 percent, to 932.68, its best gain in nearly two months and putting it solidly back into the black for the year. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) jumped 63.17 points, or 3.51 percent, to 1,862.90.

JPMORGAN AND IBM SIZZLE

Along with technology shares, the financial sector led the way higher, with the S&P financial index (.GSPF) climbing 4.1 percent. Hopes that banks will report better-than-anticipated quarterly results fueled Monday's rally. JPMorgan (JPM.N), which releases its scorecard on Thursday, gained 4.5 percent to \$36.26.

Intel's results lifted rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD.N) shares, pushing AMD up 8.7 percent to \$3.86 on the New York Stock

Exchange, while the PHLX semiconductor index (.SOXX) jumped 4.4 percent.

Tech will likely continue to be in the spotlight on Thursday with results expected from bellwethers International Business Machines (IBM.N) and Google (GOOG.O). IBM gave the Dow its biggest boost. IBM's stock climbed 3.9 percent to \$107.22 on the NYSE, while Google's shares gained 3.2 percent to \$438.17 on Nasdaq.

On the economic front, separate reports showed both industrial output and New York factory activity declined at a slower pace, while consumer prices edged up moderately. The New York Federal Reserve Bank's Empire State business index registered its strongest level since April 2008.

Minutes from last month's FOMC meeting showed central bank policy-makers thought economic growth would resume in the second half of the year, although the economy remained vulnerable.

Volume was moderate on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1.37 billion shares changing hands, below last year's estimated daily average of 1.49 billion, while on the Nasdaq, about 2.53 billion shares traded, above last year's daily average of 2.28 billion.

Advancing stocks far outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a ratio of about 9 to 1, while on the Nasdaq, about five stocks rose for every one that fell. □

Fed bailout of CIT possible after trading halted

By DANIEL WAGNER,

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON – Trading in the shares of crippled commercial lender CIT Group Inc. was halted on the New York Stock Exchange late Wednesday as negotiations continued over a possible federal bailout.

Regulators have been poring over the books at New York-based CIT trying to determine which of its assets remain strong enough to secure emergency financing. A trading halt often occurs when news about a company is about to be released.

The company has been teetering on the brink of a bankruptcy filing as its assets decline in value and a large debt payment looms.

Representatives from the Treasury Department, Federal Reserve and Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. have been discussing plans for federal aid to prop up the commercial lender, whose failure could affect about a million small businesses that depend on it for credit.

President Barack Obama has been briefed on CIT's potential collapse, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Wednesday. But Gibbs declined to discuss Obama's briefing and referred questions to the Treasury Department, which has been handling the deals with troubled financial institutions. Bert Ely, a longtime banking analyst, said the trading stoppage could signal that CIT is close to accepting some form of federal aid or possibly preparing a bankruptcy filing.

A bankruptcy filing would wipe out CIT's shareholders. But it wouldn't mean that its clients — from Dunkin' Donuts franchisees to retailer Dillards Inc. — would automatically lose their lines of credit, Ely said.

"That would be up to a bankruptcy court. The judge would have to decide," he said.

Officials have been discussing a multipart plan to provide short-term liquidity and improve CIT's capital position. The deal under consideration would include some or all of the following: A short-term loan from the Treasury, restructuring the company's debt, transferring assets from the parent company to a small bank it owns and accessing the Fed's discount window to obtain low-cost cash.

Treasury spokeswoman Meg Reilly would not comment on the matter late Wednesday.

To transfer assets, the company would require approval from the Fed and FDIC. To borrow from the Fed, the firm would need to pledge assets that are strong enough to secure the loan.

That's what examiners are trying to determine as they go over CIT's books, and it could be a problem for a firm whose portfolio has seen major losses due to a sluggish economy.

"My sense is they can hunt and peck all over the balance sheet for assets that the bank could pledge to (the Fed) and they'll still end up somewhat short, so they need to twist the arms of creditors and raise some equity," said Daniel Alpert, managing director of Westwood Capital LLC.

Shares of CIT added 26 cents, or more than 19 percent, to \$1.61 Tuesday on hopes that the government would throw the company a financial lifeline. The price was \$1.64 before trading was halted Wednesday.

Corporate customers started to draw down on their credit lines Monday and Tuesday, according to a report Wednesday in The Wall Street Journal, which cited unidentified people familiar with the situation. Those people told the newspaper the drawdowns amounted to several hundred million dollars, with one number mentioned as high as \$775 million.

A spokesman for CIT on Wednesday was not immediately available for comment. □



**"FAVI FUNDACION
CU VISION"**

Prices up, but other direction is a bigger threat

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Sharply higher prices for everyday goods in June reflected a surge at the gas pump, not the start of a dangerous bout of inflation. In fact, economists say falling prices are the bigger danger. A Labor Department report Wednesday showed consumer prices making their biggest jump last month in almost a year. But overall prices are down 1.4 percent from this time last year — the biggest decline in almost six decades. That's bad news for business executives. High unemployment and stagnant wages mean they risk losing customers if they raise their prices. After sales rose for three months at Mitchell & Best Homebuilders of Rockville, Md., Vice CEO Marty Mitchell thought the time was right to try hiking prices at one of his eight developments.

But so far the 2 percent bump has been a failure — a disappointment for the company because “we’re actually selling for less than the true cost,” Mitchell said. Consumer prices were up 0.7 percent in June, the Labor Department said, mostly because of higher energy prices. Gasoline was 17 percent more expensive in June than in May.

Food prices were up only slightly, and dairy products were cheaper. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, posted a moderate 0.2 percent rise in June, well within the Federal Reserve's comfort zone.

“You are not going to get serious domestic inflationary problems until you get closer to full employment, and that is going to take at least five years,” said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

The Fed delivered a similar message Wednesday, forecasting that unemployment would top 10 percent this year and saying it expects inflation will “remain subdued for some time.”

Economists say there are two threats that could scuttle their

forecast of benign inflation — oil and the dollar. If Middle East tensions suddenly sent oil prices surging, or if the dollar started falling precipitously, all bets would be off.

Oil prices appear to be in check. They rose in June but have fallen since, and gas prices are down to a national average of about \$2.50 this week, 17 cents lower than a month ago.

But if foreign investors worried about soaring U.S. deficits start selling their Treasury securities, that could send the dollar down. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner was in the Middle East this week to reassure investors in U.S. debt that the administration is serious about tackling the deficit once the economy comes back.

The jump in consumer prices in June did stir some inflationary concerns on Wall Street, sending bond prices lower for a third straight day. Strong earnings and an upbeat forecast from Intel Corp. helped push the Dow Jones industrials up 255 points.

Separately, the Fed said the decline in factory output last month was slower than in May, a possible sign the recession is easing. Factories are running well below capacity, and idle machinery is further evidence to economists that the risk of inflation is low.

“There is intense pressure on businesses to either hold the line or cut prices,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

Among other signs in the economy that inflation is in check:

- Prices for personal computers and electronic gadgets have dropped, or stayed steady with added features. Even Apple Inc., known for its premium products, recently cut the price of the cheapest iPhone in half and took \$300 off some laptops.

- Drug companies did raise prices slightly on some medications with few signification rivals, but prices for most prescription drugs should stay flat or drop, predicted analyst Steve Brozak

of WBB Securities.

- Airlines are unlikely to raise fares anytime soon. Demand, especially among business travelers, remains soft and is expected to stay that way. Low-fare specialist Southwest cut fares ahead of the traditionally slower fall travel season.

There are some industries that feel comfortable raising prices, even as evidence of a weak economy lurks:

- Movie theaters are enjoying an attendance boom as households seek bargain entertainment. Attendance is up 8 percent this year, and the average ticket in the U.S. and Canada is up about 2 percent.

- Railroad operator CSX Corp. expects to raise prices this year, partly because shippers



A woman shops at the Union Square Greenmarket in New York Wednesday, July 15, 2009. Consumer prices shot up in June by the largest amount in 11 months, the Labor Department announced Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

don't have many alternatives.

- Food companies including Kellogg Co. and Kraft Foods Inc. have raised prices to keep up with ingredients that are

becoming more expensive.

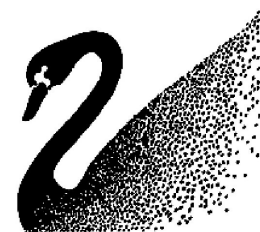
To keep cost-conscious customers from straying, they are offering more promotions like buy-one-get-one-free. □

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Brüno Banned in Ukraine, Chopped in U.K.



Gina Serpe

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Trendsetters, take note: Ukraine is the new Kazakhstan.

A week before it was scheduled to open in the former Soviet nation, Brüno has been formally banned by Ukraine from playing within its borders, after the country's Culture Ministry branded the film "immoral" and called its language and sexual imagery "obscene and improper."

Apparently, frontal male nudity, depictions of S&M swingers' parties

and simulated sex acts with a ghost aren't what pass for entertainment in the Ukraine (on a related note, God bless America).

The decision to ban Sacha Baron Cohen's latest tour de force came after a 14-member commission appointed by the ministry deemed the film unfit for public viewing, as it could potentially "cause damage to public morals."

The group concluded that the film featured an "artistically unjustified exhibition of sexual organs and sexual relations, homosexual acts

in a blatantly graphic form, obscene language, sadism, and antisocial behavior which could damage the moral upbringing of our citizens."

If that's not a tagline for the movie poster, nothing is.

Back in 2006, Ukraine, along with Kazakhstan and Russia, banned Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, on similar grounds.

And oh, how that hurt its box office haul...all \$261.6 million of it.

Meanwhile, Britain has found a creative way around any potential offense caused by their native son, with Universal Pictures set to release a second, more teen-friendly version of the film on July 24.

The studio cut out 1 minute and 50 seconds of the original film and, in doing so, managed to lower its rating from an 18-certificate (the U.K.'s equivalent of an R rating), to one that allows viewers ages 15 and under into the theater.

Not that the more mature version has suffered for its raunchiness. Brüno debuted at No. 1 in both the U.S. and U.K. over the weekend. □

DEA weighs new limits on drug eyed in Jackson case

By DEVLIN BARRETT, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are considering making the potent anesthetic propofol — one of the drugs found in Michael Jackson's home — a controlled substance, which would put new limits on its distribution. The Drug Enforcement Administration was petitioned two years ago to make propofol a scheduled drug under the Controlled Substances Act. That designation is used to impose restrictions on distributing and prescribing certain drugs prone to abuse and addiction.

DEA spokesman Rusty Payne confirmed Wednesday that the agency is considering adding propofol to the list of controlled substances. The brand-name version of propofol is called Diprivan. A

nurse who provided nutritional therapy for Jackson, Cheryl Lynn Lee, has said he asked her for Diprivan to treat insomnia. Propofol is not recommended for such use and Lee said she refused the star's request.

Until Jackson's death, the main concern about propofol was its potential for abuse by medical staff, because it is usually administered intravenously in hospitals to patients who need to be unconscious for surgery or other procedures.

The Food and Drug Administration has received an increasing number of reports about fatalities linked to propofol in recent years: 43 in 2008 and 35 in 2007, up from an average of 22 per year over the decade before that, according to FDA data. The increase may be due to increasing use of propofol over older barbiturates.



A central question in the Jackson investigation is who provided that drug and other prescription medications found at his rented Beverly Hills mansion. Investigators are talking to doctors who treated Jackson.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and removed several bottles of propofol from Jackson's home, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person is not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. □



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Bonnie Wright as Ginny Weasley, left, and Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter are shown in a scene from 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.'

(AP Photo/Warner Bros.)

Midnight hour strikes with \$22M for 'Harry Potter'

By DAVID GERMAIN, AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Harry Potter has conjured up a record-breaking witching hour.

The latest adventure of the teen wizard, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," took in \$22.2 million domestically from midnight screenings, distributor Warner Bros. said Thursday. That breaks the record set by another Warner blockbuster, "The Dark Knight," which grossed \$18.5 million from midnight shows last summer.

The sixth installment in the "Harry Potter" franchise also topped this year's biggest hit, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," which pulled in \$16 million from midnight screenings on its first day in June.

"Half-Blood Prince" raked in \$10 million more from midnight screenings than part five, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," in summer 2007.

There was pent-up demand for "Harry Potter" after that last movie. The two-year lag since "Order of the Phoenix" was the longest fans have had to wait for a new "Harry Potter" flick since the first movie arrived in 2001.

Warner originally planned to release "Half-Blood Prince" last November but bumped it to 2009 to take advantage of an open weekend in Hollywood's busy summer schedule.

"We're sorry that it caused some angst with our fans, but they're troopers, and they came out and supported the movie," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner.

The new movie has Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) trying to pry loose a hidden memory from one of his teachers, who holds key information about the wizard world's darkest enemy, Lord Voldemort.

Earning some of the best reviews in the franchise's history, the new "Harry Potter" tale played to packed crowds in 3,003 theaters for its midnight debut. Domestically, that theater count climbed to 4,275 later Wednesday, and 50 more cinemas will be added Friday.

With that kind of market saturation, "Half-Blood Prince" could set other new box-office highs — both for the "Harry Potter" franchise and Hollywood in general.

"It's definitely within reach of some of the biggest records in box-office history," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com

"Order of the Phoenix" also opened on a Wednesday and had the franchise's best five-day debut at \$139.7 million. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" had the top three-day weekend opening of \$102.7 million.

"The Dark Knight" is the record-holder for best opening day (\$67.2 million), best weekend (\$158.4 million) and best five-day debut (\$203.8 million).

The seventh and final book in J.K. Rowling's fantasy series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is being split into two parts for the big screen, with the first movie due out in November 2010 and the second in July 2011. □



The crew of the space shuttle Endeavour STS-127 as they walk out to the astrovan at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Astronauts on Wednesday once again strapped into the Endeavour as NASA prepared for a sixth time to launch the space shuttle after bad weather and technical trouble blighted five previous attempts.

(AFP/Stan Honda)

Space shuttle blasts off after month's delay

By MARCIA DUNN,
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After more than a month's delay, space shuttle Endeavour and seven astronauts thundered into orbit Wednesday on a flight to the international space station, hauling up a veranda for Japan's enormous lab and looking to set a crowd record.

Success came on launch try No. 6, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the liftoff of man's first moon landing.

Endeavour blasted off a little after 6 p.m. from its seaside pad — the same one used to launch Apollo 11 on July 16, 1969 — a welcome sight for shuttle workers who had to overcome hydrogen gas leaks last month and, since the weekend, thunderstorms. The skies finally cleared, allowing commander Mark Polansky and his crew to embark on their 16-day adventure. One more holdup and they would have tied a record for the most shuttle launch delays.

"The weather is finally cooperating, so it is now time to fly," launch director Pete Nickolenko called out to the crew. "Persistence pays off."

Replied Polansky: "Endeavour's patiently waited for this. We're ready to go, and we're going to take all of you with us on a great mission."

Endeavour soared through thin clouds and was visible, gleaming in the sunlight, for three minutes. The exhaust plume and its shadow linked together to resemble a high arc in the sky.

The astronauts will catch up Friday with the space station, which was soaring more than 220 miles above the Pacific at launch time. When they do, it will be the first time 13 people are together in space. Ten is the previous record. The doubling of the space station crew a few months ago, to six, makes the new record possible.

The shuttle will remain docked at the space station for nearly two weeks. During that time, the shuttle astronauts will help install the third and final piece of the Japanese space station lab, a porch for outdoor experiments. The first two parts went up on shuttle flights last year.

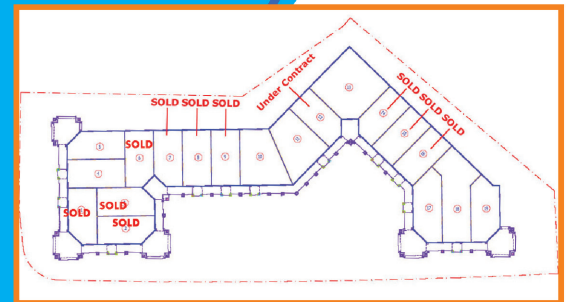
Japan's \$1 billion laboratory is the largest and fanciest of the three up there. It even has its own robot arm which will be used for the first time, during the coming days, to move a research payload. Shuttle managers say robot arm operations will be especially intricate on this flight, involving all three of the available mechanical devices. □

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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

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The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

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Supreme Court nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor exchanges greetings with members of the audience as she arrives for her third day of U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill, July 15, 2009.

REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst
Read Page B4

Witness: Pastor said 'Lord told me' to abuse girl

By JON GAMBRELL,
Associated Press Writer

TEXARKANA, Ark. — A woman who says she was a child bride of evangelist Tony Alamo told jurors Wednesday that the minister had so many partners that he had to schedule when he would have sex with them.

The woman, now 30, said she was a third-generation Alamo follower into adulthood — until the Arkansas-based pastor took an 8-year-old as his latest bride.

At one point, the woman said, Alamo told her graphically how he fondled the girl as she held a stuffed animal — and she raised concerns about his actions.

"He told me to shut up and that I shouldn't question what 'the Lord told me to do,'" the woman said.



Evangelist Tony Alamo, right, is led from the federal courthouse in downtown Texarkana Ark. Tuesday July 14, 2009 following opening statements in his trial. Alamo is charged with taking underage girls across state lines for sex.

(AP Photo/Texarkana Gazette, Evan Lewis) MANDATORY CREDIT

Federal prosecutors accuse Alamo, 74, of transporting five girls across state lines for sex between 1994 and 2005. The woman who testified Wednesday said she traveled

to California, Tennessee and West Virginia when she was underage to be available to Alamo.

Continued on Page B5

Kirk to run for Obama's old Ill. Senate seat



U.S. Senator Roland Burris gestures to the audience before he announces that he will not seek re-election in the Senate in 2010, during a news conference in Chicago, Illinois July 10, 2009.

REUTERS/Frank Polich

By DEANNA BELLANDI and HENRY C. JACKSON,
Associated Press Writers

CHICAGO — An Illinois Republican political consultant says Rep. Mark Kirk will announce Monday that he is running for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

The consultant says he spoke with Kirk on Wednesday. National GOP strategists see the congressman as their best hope to take the Senate seat from Democrats in 2010.

The seat is currently held by Roland Burris, a Democrat, who says he won't run for a full term. Burris was appointed by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is charged with allegedly trying to sell the seat.

Another Republican official, who had knowledge of the decision, confirmed that Kirk will make the announcement Monday. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they didn't want to pre-empt Kirk's announcement. □



Iranian plane crashes into field, killing all 168

Image taken from television footage shows wreckage from a crashed Tupolev passenger aircraft near the village of Jannat-abad in Qazvin July 15, 2009.

REUTERS/Press TV via Reuters TV
Read Page B8

Mousavi: Protesters' blood will not go in vain



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivers a major foreign policy address at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington July 15, 2009. Clinton on Wednesday deplored Iran's crushing of dissent in June's election but said the Obama administration still wanted talks with Tehran over its nuclear program.

REUTERS/Hyungwon Kang (UNITED STATES POLITICS)

By **ALI AKBAR DAREINI**,
Associated Press Writer
TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian
opposition leader Mir Hossein
Mousavi vowed not to let the
blood of protesters killed in
postelection crackdown go in
vain as he met with the family

of a young man shot to death
during the turmoil, reformist
Web site reported Wednesday.
Mousavi, meanwhile,
announced Wednesday that
he will attend Tehran's main
Friday prayer services this
week for the first time, a key

symbolic assertion of the
opposition's presence after the
crackdown.

The sermon Friday is due to be
delivered by Akbar Hashemi
Rafsanjani, a powerful cleric in
Iran's leadership who has not
performed the sermon since the
turmoil erupted following the
disputed June 12 presidential
election. Rafsanjani is a top
rival of President Mahmoud
Ahmadinejad and is believed
to be a strong behind-the-
scenes backer of Mousavi.

"I'll join you (for prayers)
on Friday July 17," Mousavi
said, according to his Web site
ghalamnews.ir.

The main Friday prayer
sermon at Tehran University is
a significant political platform
that hard-line clerics have used
in recent weeks to demand a
halt to postelection protests and
spread the message that that
turmoil was fueled by foreign
enemies. Rafsanjani's sermon
could give the first opposition
voice in the sermon.

The pro-Mousavi Web site

mowjcamp.com said reformist
leaders will hold street protests
after attending the Friday
prayers.

Thursday night, several
hundred supporters gathered,
some chanting "death to the
dictator," as Mousavi and
his wife visited the family
of Sohrab Aarabi, 19, who
disappeared during a June
15 protest, according to
mowjcamp.com. Footage
from the visit posted on the
Web showed Mousavi moving
through a crowd of well-
wishers inside Aarabi's family
home to his parents to express
condolences.

Aarabi disappeared during a
June 15 protest, and his family
searched for weeks for news
of his fate. They were finally
notified on Saturday that he
had been shot in the chest and
died during the crackdown on
postelection protests. Aarabi
was buried Monday in the vast
Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery on
the outskirts of Tehran.

Mousavi and his popular wife

Zahra Rahnavard made the
visit as a top aide announced
that Mousavi will create a new
front grouping pro-reform
political parties — the first
concrete sign of what the
opposition's next step will be
to carry on its campaign against
Ahmadinejad's government.
Mousavi claims to have won
the June 12 election and that
Ahmadinejad's victory in
official results was fraudulent.
But Iran's supreme leader,
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,
has backed Ahmadinejad,
and security forces crushed
street protests by hundreds
of thousands of Iranians in
support of Mousavi.

"We won't let the blood
of these youth go in vain,"
Mousavi told Aarabi's family
during the visit, according to
the Web site norooznews.org.
Aarabi's mother, Parvin
Fahimi, said she would take
the case of her slain son to
domestic and, if necessary,
international courts, the site
reported. □



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Army: Soldiers in slayings faced intense combat

By P. SOLOMON BANDA, Associated Press Writer

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Soldiers from a Colorado unit accused in nearly a dozen slayings since returning home — including a couple gunned down as they put up a garage sale sign — could be showing hostility fueled by intense combat in Iraq, where the troops suffered heavy losses and told of witnessing war crimes, the military said Wednesday.

In what was billed as its most comprehensive study to date of violent crimes and combat exposure, the Army looked at soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division — nicknamed the Lethal Warriors — who were accused in a spate of five killings around Colorado Springs, home to Fort Carson, in 2007 and 2008.

Six other slayings involving unit soldiers occurred in Colorado and other states since 2005.

“This investigation suggest a possible association between increasing levels of combat exposure and risk for negative behavioral outcomes,” the study said.

Army investigators compared the Fort Carson unit of about 3,700 soldiers with a similarly sized unit and found it suffered more combat deaths in Iraq and was deployed there longer.

“This deployment experienced higher levels of combat intensity,” the report said, adding that the soldiers also faced “significant disruptions in family-social support.”

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, the Army’s surgeon general, said Wednesday the unit’s crime cluster appeared to be unique among Army bases and that its combat exposure and length of deployments are just two factor officials are looking at.

“We’re starting to look into the deployments and ... how it’s related with attitudes and behavior,” Schoomaker said.

Cops: Fla. slaying suspects didn’t expect cameras



Ashley Markham, lower right, offers support to her Aunt Julie Tittle, thrid left, as, from left to light, lawyer Chrystal Collins-Spencer, uncle Ed Brock, Rick Tittle, and Blue Markham attend during a news conference in Pensacola, Fla. on Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

By BILL KACZOR, Associated Press Writer
PENSACOLA, Fla. — The accomplice assigned to turn off surveillance cameras before an elaborate, deadly break-in at a sprawling Florida Panhandle home never did, but the seven people accused in the crime apparently did not know that, authorities said Wednesday.

Melanie and Byrd Billings, known for adopting a large brood of children with special needs, were shot to death about a week ago. An extensive surveillance system captured footage of masked men — some dressed as ninjas — slipping into front and back doors at the home and stealing a safe, among other items.

The men were in the nine-bedroom house for just four minutes and on the property for 10, Escambia County

(AP Photo/Mari Darr~Welch)

Sheriff David Morgan said. Video captured during that time led investigators to a red van used as a getaway car and eventually to the suspects.

Morgan said investigators have been pondering “the huge gap” in what was otherwise a precise, methodical crime for which the suspects had trained 30 days. They were a loosely connected group of mostly day laborers who knew each other through a power washing business and an auto detailing operation.

“The execution was basically flawless,” Morgan said. “The one gaping hole that would not have made this a perfect operation, if you will, was the fact that the surveillance system was not disabled. I guess the question was why was it not?”

Investigators have not said

what was in the safe or what else was taken from the house. Morgan said they also do not know why the camera system remained on. He speculated that maybe the person who was supposed to turn it off had an attack of conscience. “Who knows?” he said.

Also Wednesday, Morgan said police in Orange Beach, Ala., had found a real estate agent named Pamela Laverne Long. Authorities had earlier sought public help finding her, saying they were concerned about her safety because she hadn’t been heard from in about two days. Police in Orange Beach, about 30 miles from Pensacola, found her at or near a marina on Wednesday afternoon, Morgan said. He said she was not in custody and was returning to Florida voluntarily. He said investigators believe she has “significant and substantial information” needed to conclude the case.

Morgan said Long is friends with and rents property to 35-year-old Leonard Gonzalez Jr., whom Morgan described as a “pivotal person” in organizing the crime.

Morgan also said authorities are looking for another person of interest who may have been assigned to turn off the surveillance system, possibly remotely, though he did not identify that person.

Nine of the couple’s 13 adopted children were home during the break-in. Three saw the intruders but were not hurt. The couple also had

four children from previous marriages.

State Attorney Bill Eddins has said he will ask a grand jury to indict all those arrested on first-degree murder charges in the Billings’ shooting deaths. He said robbery was the main motive.

The suspects range in age from 16 to 56. One, Donnie Ray Stallworth, was with the Air Force Special Operations Command with an aircraft maintenance squadron at Hurlburt Field near Fort Walton Beach. It wasn’t clear how he knew the others. Stallworth had been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan five times since 2002, an Air Force spokesman said.

Gonzalez was charged with murder and read a statement in court Tuesday proclaiming his innocence.

His father, Leonard Gonzalez Sr., 56, was charged with evidence tampering after authorities said he tried to cover up some damage on a red van seen on surveillance video pulling away from the house. Officials said the damage was unrelated to the crime.

Day laborer Wayne Coldiron, 41, was also charged with murder. He sometimes worked for a pressure washing business owned by the elder Gonzalez. The other suspects arrested were Gary Sumner, 31, a day laborer, 19-year-old Frederick Lee Thornton, and a 16-year-old whom officials are not naming because he is a minor.

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Sotomayor sidesteps on abortion, guns in grilling



Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday July 15, 2009, before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

By **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS**,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor sidestepped volleys of pointed questions on abortion and gun rights from senators Wednesday, keeping her demeanor cool and her opinions mostly private as she neared the end of a marathon grilling on the road to all but sure confirmation.

After more than 10 hours of questioning by Judiciary Committee senators over two days, Sotomayor had yet to

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak) make a slip — certainly not the gaffe that even Republicans concede would be necessary to derail her nomination to be the first Hispanic and third woman to serve on the high court. She was due back for still more questioning on Thursday. The appeals court judge, 55, avoided weighing in on any major issue that could come before her as a justice, instead using legal doctrine, carefully worded deflections and even humor to ward off efforts to pin her down.

Appearing more at ease in the witness chair, Sotomayor

defused a tense exchange on gun rights by joking about shooting a GOP critic and charmed Democratic supporters with nostalgic praise for fictional attorney Perry Mason.

Republicans, frustrated in their attempts to undercut President Barack Obama's first high court choice, said they were still worried Sotomayor would bring bias and a political agenda to the bench.

"It's muddled, confusing, backtracking on issue after issue," complained Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel. "I frankly am a bit disappointed in the lack of clarity and consistency in her answers." Her rulings — except for a much-debated reverse discrimination case — have not shed much light on her positions either, though she is considered unlikely to disturb the Supreme Court balance in replacing generally liberal Justice David Souter.

On abortion rights for example, Sotomayor has not ruled on any case that squarely confronts the issue. As an appeals court judge she

dismissed a challenge to the so-called global gag rule on U.S. foreign aid, deciding against an abortion rights group. But in her opinion she used the phrases "anti-abortion" and "pro-choice," typically used by abortion rights supporters. The hearings are expected to continue Thursday with more questions for Sotomayor and testimony from outside witnesses. A vote by the full Senate to confirm her is expected in early August, time enough to allow her to don the robes of a justice before a scheduled hearing on Sept. 9 on a case involving federal campaign finance law.

The cavernous hearing room on Capitol Hill was filled for a third straight day, and tourists waited in line outside for their few moments to witness history. Among the audience members sat Frank Ricci, a white New Haven, Conn., firefighter whose reverse discrimination claim was rejected by Sotomayor's court panel. The Supreme Court overturned that ruling late last month, and Republicans plan to showcase Ricci on Thursday as part of their effort to portray

her as a judge who has let her biases trump the law.

On Wednesday, Sotomayor declined repeatedly to respond to questions designed to elicit her personal and legal views about a woman's right to end a pregnancy, saying she couldn't address it in the abstract and wouldn't do so in any specific way since the issue is likely to come before the court.

The Supreme Court in 1992 "reaffirmed the core holding of Roe v. Wade that a woman has a constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy in certain cases," Sotomayor told Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., adding that the ruling said the court should consider whether any state regulation "has an undue burden on the woman's constitutional right."

But she refused to be drawn out by Coburn, a leading abortion-rights foe, on whether a late-term abortion would be appropriate, or whether technological advances that allow an early-term fetus to survive should have any bearing on the legal standard for ending a pregnancy.

"All I can say to you is what the court's done and the standard that the court has applied," Sotomayor said. "We don't make policy choices on the court; we look at the case before us."

Earlier, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, asked how the Obama administration could have known her position on the issue.

"I was asked no question by anyone including the president about my views on any specific legal issue," she said.

She was no more forthcoming on the issue when pressed by an abortion rights supporter, Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa. Asked whether the 1992 ruling reaffirming Roe was a kind of "super" precedent, she didn't respond directly.

On her second day fielding questions, Sotomayor sidestepped when Cornyn asked whether she stood by or disavowed a controversial 2001 remark that a "wise Latina" judge would often make better decisions than a white male. □

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Death of Fla. girl Caylee Anthony still captivates

By MIKE SCHNEIDER,
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — It's easy to forget 2-year-old Florida toddler Caylee Anthony was slain after all the plot twists and turns in her story.

There are the grandparents, George and Cindy. The phantom baby sitter. The bounty hunter. The meter reader.

At the center of it all is Caylee's mother, Casey Anthony, the petite 23-year-old charged in her daughter's death. It's been one year since the toddler was reported missing, and while her remains were found six months ago, authorities still don't know exactly how she died.

That's one of the many unknowns that has kept the public's interest over the last year. Viewers tune in to the cable television news show hosted by Nancy Grace, who dubbed Casey the "Tot Mom," to find out about every

development. People chat on parenting Web sites about her chances of a fair trial and debate over her innocence or guilt has filled talk radio.

"It certainly has the makings of a made-for-TV movie or a soap opera," said Bob Longo, news director of WESH, which like other Orlando television news stations has relentlessly covered the case. "I think people have opinions on the characters in the saga. They identify with them or against them."

The story started as a mystery, centered on finding out what happened to Caylee. But soon, Casey Anthony became the chief suspect and the image of a sympathetic mother morphed into that of a party-loving club-hopper. The stories she told detectives and her parents about where she worked and where she had dropped off Caylee with a baby sitter were lies, police said.

It turned out Caylee had been

missing more than a month before Casey Anthony told her family. After her arrest, she told police she had been conducting her own investigation into her daughter's whereabouts.

George and Cindy Anthony, the grandparents, were used to seeing the little girl almost every day. But beginning about mid-June 2008, Casey and Caylee just weren't around.

When the grandparents inquired, Casey said she was traveling with Caylee around central Florida. Cindy began to worry, though, and called her daughter frequently, demanding to know Caylee's whereabouts. There were always excuses: Caylee was with the baby sitter or at the beach with friends.

In mid-July, George and Cindy picked up their daughter's car from a towing lot and noticed a stench from the trunk. Cindy Anthony confronted her daughter, who initially said Caylee was with the phantom

Alamo had taken "as his wife."

Defense lawyers say the government has targeted the ministry for prosecution and Alamo says the trial is part of a Vatican-led conspiracy against him. "This investigation, this prosecution was fueled by prejudice the government and law enforcement have against Tony Alamo's church because of its practices," said Don Ervin, who is leading Alamo's defense team.

Alamo previously served four years in prison on a tax evasion charge after the IRS said he owed \$7.9 million. Prosecutors allege that some girls were brought to Alamo for sex while he was awaiting the 1994 trial.

Wednesday's first witness said how often Alamo would schedule sex with his female followers varied on where he was and how many were with him when he was traveling. When Alamo was arrested in Arizona last September to face the sex-crime charges, federal agents said he had several women traveling with him, none of whom were minors.

The witness said some of Alamo's "wives" moved to Colorado to be near him while he was in prison there, then moved to Fouke in southwestern Arkansas, the current home of the minister's compound. Alamo completed his prison at a Texarkana halfway house about 15 miles from Fouke.

If convicted in the current trial, Alamo faces 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. He is being held without bond until the end of his trial. □



This undated file photo released by the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, Fla. on Friday, July 18, 2008, shows Caylee Marie Anthony. The story of Casey Anthony and her little girl Caylee has become a soap opera of sorts over the last year, with plot twists and turns, and a colorful cast of supporting characters.

(AP Photo/Orange County Sheriff's Office, File)

baby sitter. Then, Casey finally admitted the little girl had been missing for a month.

"There's something wrong," Cindy Anthony said in a 911 call. "I found my daughter's car today and it smelled like there's been a dead body in the damn car."

Casey Anthony was arrested the next day on charges of child neglect and providing false information to authorities. She continued to tell law enforcement that Caylee had been left with a baby sitter, whom she identified as Zenaida Gonzalez.

That's when the story switched from a private drama of domestic tensions between parents and a daughter to a very public tale. Reporters camped outside the Anthony home for weeks and protesters with "Baby Killer" signs picketed their street.

Casey Anthony maintained her innocence throughout.

"I'm not in control of this because I don't know what the hell is going on," she tearfully told her parents during a jailhouse visit last summer. "My entire life has been taken from me. Everything has been taken from me."

Leonard Padilla, a cowboy-hat-wearing, California-based bounty hunter became part of the narrative by posting her bond last year. He thought having her out of jail would aid in finding Caylee, but he turned on her when she proved uncooperative. He made frequent appearances on television talk shows in the following months, offering unflattering commentary.

Meanwhile, hundreds of volunteers scoured woods in south Orlando in search of clues to Caylee's disappearance. □

PASTOR ABUSE

Continued from Page B1

Defense lawyers said in their opening statement Tuesday that girls crisscrossed the country while working for the ministry. Chores for a "bona fide religious group" were not a federal offense, they said.

On the stand Wednesday, the 30-year-old woman said she was married to Alamo at age 15 after he rejected a request from a boy her same age to marry her. She said Alamo told her family that the Lord had told him to take her as his wife, and that she feared her she and her relatives would be shunned if she did not submit.

"We didn't have anywhere to go," said the woman, whose parents and grandparents were also Alamo followers.

After she agreed, the witness said, Alamo took her hand asked if she would take him as her lawfully wedded husband. He kissed her on the forehead and, three days later, had sex with her for the first time.

The "marriage" took place at Alamo's compound but was not formally registered with the state. The Associated Press generally does not identify alleged victims of sex crimes.

Prosecutors spent much of Wednesday going through a series of photographs of Alamo with women from his compounds. At one point, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kyra Jenner asked the witness, "Who is the girl on the right wearing the Barbie shirt?"

The witness said it was the 8-year-old that

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Troops seize Venezuela police station, 6 injured

By CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER,
Associated Press Writer

CURIEPE, Venezuela — National Guard troops seized control of a police station controlled by a leading opponent of President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday, sparking clashes between troops and protesters that police said left six injured. Hundreds of townspeople massed outside the police station in this small town east of Caracas after the National Guard evicted police. The protesters hurled rocks, bottles and molotov cocktails. Troops in riot gear fired tear gas at the crowd. The clashes added to tensions between Chavez's administration and elected opposition officials who denounce the government for trying to undermine them and strip them of authority. "I hold the interior minister responsible because this is a premeditated plan," Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles said in a televised news conference, criticizing the National Guard for acting like the "militia of a political party." There was no immediate response from the government, and the Defense Ministry did not return a call seeking comment. The conflict began shortly before dawn when about 40 troops with the National Guard tossed tear gas canisters at the police precinct post, forced officers

to leave and took over the building, said Elisio Guzman, director of the Miranda state police. He contended that the troops were following orders by the town's pro-Chavez mayor, who could not be reached immediately for comment. Hours later, some protesters covered their faces with T-shirts while throwing rocks and bottles at troops outside the police station. Protesters set tires afire in the streets, which were littered with rubble and a torched car. "We don't agree with the move to take out the state police," said Abigail Landaneta, a 41-year-old teacher among the protesters, who said the group was nonpartisan and simply upset with the National Guard's takeover of the police station. He added that the police are needed to fight rampant crime in the rural town, and "there should be dialogue between the government and the governor." Tensions between Capriles and Chavez's government have been brewing since the opposition politician defeated an incumbent ruling-party candidate in elections last year. Two people were wounded and four required treatment after inhaling tear gas, Guzman told the Venezuelan television station Globovision. Troops shot plastic bullets at the protesters, said Adriana D'Elia, a representative of Miranda's

state government. She said a television cameraman working for the channel RCTV was among those injured, requiring five stitches on his face. Guzman said the National Guard troops carried out "waves of attacks" against residents who turned out to protest. The police director said he ordered officers under his command to stand down, telling them to avoid conflict. A similar conflict erupted on Friday after National Guard troops tried to seize another state police station on orders from a pro-Chavez mayor in Miranda, which includes part of Caracas and surrounding areas to the south and east. Guzman said four people suffered minor injuries during that earlier standoff in the town of Caucagua, where the protesters prevented the National Guard from taking the police post. Chavez's government in recent months has taken over airports, seaports, highways, hospitals and schools previously controlled by opposition governors and mayors who won elections last year. Opponents denounce the moves as a power grab, saying it aims to limit their powers and funding. Chavez has defended such moves saying they are aimed at improving public service and fighting corruption. □



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PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:00	9:00 late show: 11:50	
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	daily: 7:10 matinee:	9:30 late show: 11:45	
PG-13	YEAR ONE	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:40	7:10 late show: 11:20	
PG-13	TERMINATOR SALVATION	daily: 8:15 matinee:	late show: 11:00	
PG-13	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:20	6:15 late show:	
PG	IMAGINE THAT	daily: 4:55 matinee: 12:10	late show:	

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PG-13	PUBLIC ENEMIES	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:05	8:45 late show: 11:35	
PG-13	THE PROPOSAL	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:25	7:00 late show: 11:30	
PG	LAND OF THE LOST	daily: 10:00 matinee:	late show: 12:05	
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 5:35 matinee: 1:15	7:45 late show: 12:00	
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show: 8:00	
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 5:40 matinee: 12:05	8:30 late show: 11:25	



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Oldest woman to give birth dies, leaving twins

By DANIEL WOOLLS,
Associated Press Writer

MADRID — A Spanish woman who deceived a U.S. fertility clinic about her age and become the oldest woman to give birth has died at 69, leaving behind 2-year-old twins, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Maria del Carmen Bousada gave birth in December 2006 after telling a clinic in Los Angeles that she was 55, the facility's maximum age for single women receiving in-vitro fertilization. Guinness World Records said the 66-year-old was the oldest on record to give birth and the case ignited fierce debate over how much responsibility fertility clinics have over their patients.

Bousada told an interviewer at the time that the Pacific Fertility Center did not ask her for identification, and maintained that because her mother had died at 101, she stood a good chance of living long enough to raise her children.

Dr. Vicken Sahakian, director and owner of the clinic, said Bousada falsified her birth date on documents from Spain. When he learned of the deception, "I figured something might happen and

wind up being a disaster for these kids, and unfortunately I was right," he said.

It's easy for women to lie to their doctors, he said.

"We don't ask for passports, obviously," Sahakian said. "When is the last time you went to a doctor and he asked you for a birth certificate? We're not detectives here."

Bousada's brother told the local newspaper Diario de Cadiz that she had died but he did not disclose the cause. The newspaper said, without citing a source, that Bousada had been diagnosed with a tumor shortly after giving birth.

Sahakian said he implanted the Spanish woman with a younger woman's eggs and donated sperm, using hormones to "rejuvenate" her uterus with hormone therapy after she had been in menopause for 18 years.

The hormone treatment lasted three weeks. Sahakian said he did not believe that increased the woman's cancer risk.

"Nothing she did (to get pregnant) caused her illness," he said.

The brother, Ricardo Bousada, told the Barcelona-based newspaper El Periodico de Catalunya that he had exclusively sold details of his sister's death to an unidentified

television program and that the proceeds would go to looking after his sister's twin boys, Pau and Christian.

Repeated calls by The Associated Press to Ricardo Bousada's residence in the southern province of Cadiz went unanswered. A woman who answered the phone at a number listed for another brother, Jose Luis Bousada, declined to comment. Her death was also reported by the national newspapers El Mundo

There was no word on who would raise the twins. Bousada had once said she would look for a younger man to help her raise them.

Bousada lived with her mother most of her life in Cadiz and worked in a department store before retiring. She decided to have children after her mother died in 2005 and initially kept her plan secret from her family, she told reporters.

She told the British tabloid News of the World that she sold her house to raise \$59,000 to pay for the in-vitro fertilization.

"I think everyone should become a mother at the right time for them," Bousada told the paper. "Often circumstances put you between a rock and a hard place, and maybe things



The Sant Pau Hospital in Barcelona where Carmen Bousada, 67, gave birth to twins in December 2006, becoming the world's oldest mother. Bousada has died from cancer, media reports say.

(AFP/File/Cesar Rangel)

shouldn't have been done in the way they were done, but that was the only way to achieve the thing I had always dreamed of, and I did it," she said.

Spanish law on assisted reproduction sets no age limit, but state-funded and private clinics that offer the procedure set the ceiling at age 50 in an informal agreement based on recommendations from the scientific community, according to the Health Ministry.

There is no U.S. law limiting the age at which women can receive in vitro fertilization but Sahakian said he generally

limits it to 55 or 56 because "I would like the mother ... to basically survive until the kids reach 18."

When Bousada finally told her relatives she was two months pregnant, they thought she was joking, she said.

"Yes, I am old of course, but if I live as long as my mom did, imagine, I could even have grandchildren," she told the News of the World.

Allan Pacey, secretary of the British Fertility Society, said the organization recommends that assisted conception generally not be provided to women beyond the natural age of menopause at about 50. □

Iranian plane crashes into field, killing all 168



In this photo released by the semi-official Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), a rescue worker attends to the scene of a plane crash near the village of Jannatabad, outside the city of Qazvin, around 75 miles northwest of Tehran in Iran, Wednesday, July 15, 2009. An Iranian passenger plane carrying 168 people crashed a quarter-hour after takeoff Wednesday, smashing into a field northwest of the capital and shattering to pieces, with State television saying all on board were killed.

By **ALI AKBAR DAREINI**,
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — A Russian-made jetliner carrying 168 people nose-dived into a field after taking off from the Iranian capital on Wednesday in a fiery crash that shredded the aircraft and killed everyone aboard — Iran's worst air disaster in six years. Witnesses say the plane's tail was on fire before it went down.

It was the latest in a string of deadly crashes in recent years that have highlighted Iran's

(AP Photo/ISNA, Sina Shiri) difficulties in maintaining its aging fleet of planes.

Iranian airlines, including state-run ones, are chronically strapped for cash, and maintenance has suffered, experts say. U.S. sanctions prevent Iran from updating its 30-year-old American aircraft and make it difficult to get European spare parts or planes as well. The country has come to rely on Russian aircraft, many of them Soviet-era planes that are harder to get parts for since the Soviet

Union's fall.

The Caspian Airlines Tupolev jet's impact plowed a deep, long trench into agricultural fields outside the village of Jannat Abad, and the aircraft was blasted to bits. Flaming wreckage, body parts and personal items were strewn over a 200-yard (meter) area. Firefighters put out blazes from the crash, but smoke smoldered from the pit for hours after as emergency workers searched for data recorders and other clues to the cause.

Ali Akbar Hashemi, a 23-year-old, was laying gas pipes in a house by the field when he saw the stricken jet overhead. He said the plane was circling in the air, flames shooting from its tail section.

"Then, I saw the plane crashing nose-down. It hit the ground causing a big explosion. The impact shook the ground like an earthquake," Hashemi told The Associated Press by phone.

The Tu-154M jet had taken off

from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport on Wednesday morning and was headed to the Armenian capital Yerevan. It crashed at 11:30 am about 16 minutes after takeoff outside Jannat Abad, near the city of Qazvin, around 75 miles northwest of Tehran, civil aviation spokesman Reza Jafarzadeh told state media.

At Yerevan's airport, Tina Karapetian, 45, sobbed and said she had been waiting for her sister and the sister's 6- and 11-year-old sons, who were due on the flight.

"What will I do without them?" she cried before collapsing to the floor.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

The plane was carrying 153 passengers and 15 crewmembers, Jafarzadeh and the deputy chairman of Armenia's civil aviation authority Arsen Pogosian said. "In all likelihood, all on board were killed," Pogosian told reporters at Yerevan airport.

Most of the passengers were

Iranians, many of them from Iran's large ethnic Armenian community, as well as 11 members of Iran's national youth judo team. Five Armenian citizens were among the dead, Armenia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, along with two Georgians, including a staffer from the Caucasus nation's embassy in Yerevan.

Serob Karapetian, the chief of Yerevan airport's aviation security service, said the plane may have attempted an emergency landing, but reports that it caught fire in the air were "only one version." He did not elaborate. A police officer told Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency that several witnesses reported seeing the plane's tail on fire.

The Tupolev's three engines are in its tail section. The flames there could indicate "an uncontained engine failure," said Patrick Smith, a pilot and the air travel and safety writer for Salon.com.

But he said it's too early to tell. The crash's root cause could be elsewhere, and the flames a sign of a compressor stall caused when the plane went out of control, interrupting airflow through the engine, Smith said.

The crash is Iran's worst since February 2003, when a Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran, killing 302 people aboard. That crash was a sign of how maintenance problems have also affected Iran's military.

Caspian Airlines is an Iranian-Russian private joint venture founded in 1993, with a fleet of Tu-154s built between 1989 and 1993. Russia produced 900 Tu-154s until production was halted in 1996.

The average age of Iran's fleet of aircraft is 22 years, said Masoud Mohajer, an aviation expert in Tehran. Age itself may not be a problem — even older jets are in service around the world — but keeping them maintained is. Mohajer said Iranian airlines can't afford to keep even Russian planes in shape because of lack of government support. □

List of plane crashes in Iran:

By The Associated Press

- July 15, 2009: A Caspian Airlines Tu-154M crashes in a field in northwest Iran, killing all 168 passengers and crew on board.
- Nov. 27, 2006: An Iranian military plane crashed shortly after takeoff killing 36 members of the elite Revolutionary Guards.
- Sept. 1, 2006: An Iran Airtour Tu-154 skidded off the runway and smashed its wing as it landed in the northeastern city of Mashhad, sparking a fire that killed 29 of the 148 people aboard.
- Jan. 11, 2006: A French-made Falcon, carrying a commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards and 10 other officers, crashed while trying to make an emergency landing, killing all aboard.
- Dec. 6, 2005: A C-130 military transport carrying Iranian journalists crashed into a 10-story building in a Tehran suburb as the pilot attempted an emergency landing after developing engine trouble, killing 115 people — 94 in the plane and 21 on the ground.
- April 20, 2005: An Iranian airlines Boeing 707 carrying 157 passengers skidded off a runway at Tehran's airport and caught fire, killing three people.
- Dec. 23, 2004: A Ukrainian-built Antonov 140 aircraft, carrying aerospace scientists mostly from Russia and Ukraine, crashed in central Iran, killing all 44 aboard.
- June 25, 2003: A C-130 transport crashed near the Rudshour River, about 30 miles southwest of Tehran, killing seven people.
- Feb. 19, 2003: A Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran, killing 302 people aboard. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

Nigerian rebels declare 'oil war' truce

by Aderogba Obisesan

LAGOS (AFP) – Nigeria's main militant group on Wednesday declared a 60-day truce in its "oil war" with the government after the release of its leader Henry Okah under an amnesty deal.

The second militant truce in less than a year came into effect just 48 hours after the rebels blew up an oil docking harbour in Lagos in their first attack outside the main Niger Delta oil producing region.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has been attacking major oil companies and the army in the south for more than three years, demanding a greater share of the oil wealth for local people.

The campaign has cut Nigeria's daily oil production by about a third.

"We have made it clear to them that the president is honest and can be trusted and that the government is ready to dialogue with anybody on the need for peace and development," Timiebi Koripamo-Agary, spokeswoman for an amnesty committee set up by President Umaru Yar'Adua, told AFP. MEND announced the truce in a statement in which it called for dialogue.

"Starting Wednesday July 15, 2009, the MEND will be observing a temporary ceasefire for a 60 day period," it said.

"Hopefully, the ceasefire period will create an enabling environment for progressive dialogue," MEND said, adding that the decision was driven

by several factors, notably Okah's release on Monday after nearly two years in jail. MEND fighters staged their audacious attack on Lagos the night before, killing at least five people.

Within 12 hours of announcing the ceasefire, MEND threatened to call it off, alleging that government troops were being deployed near its camps.

Colonel Rabe Abubakar, spokesman for the Joint Task Force set up to counter the militants, denied there had been any troop deployments and said the military was "implementing faithfully" the amnesty deal.

However, he said the JTF would continue to provide escorts for oil workers and tankers.

The rebels also said they were ready to start negotiations with the government during the truce but that they wanted an elite military unit deployed in the region to be withdrawn from one specific area, the scene of heavy clashes in recent months.

However, Defence Minister Godwin Abbe rejected the notion of making any talks conditional on a troop withdrawal.

He said the government "will make a decision as affecting the deployment of troops when the conditions become ripe enough and when law and order are comfortably established."

Abbe, a retired major-general, had actively pushed the amnesty offer. Treason charges against the MEND leader were

also dropped.

Okah, 45, a marine engineer, was arrested in Angola in September 2007 and was later charged with arms trafficking. The 63 charges he originally faced were reduced to three -

- all related to treason. MEND said Okah's release was "a step towards genuine peace and prosperity if Nigeria is open to frank talks and deals sincerely with the root issues" of the militancy.

Okah was the most high-profile militant to take advantage of the amnesty announced last month by Yar'Adua for rebels in the Delta swamps and creeks. The amnesty lasts until October 4.

Yar'Adua is committed to developing the Niger Delta, a presidential adviser on the volatile region said Wednesday in a statement.

"We reassure that President Yar'Adua is sincere and committed and is truly poised to turn the Niger Delta into a bastion of peace and development," Timi Alaibe said.

"This is not lip service, it is a promise that would be kept. However, it must be understood that development cannot be decreed into being. It is a process and that process has begun," the statement added. "Peace and cooperation of all the stakeholders is needed to accelerate on-going efforts," he said.

A youth organisation which campaigns for peace in the Niger Delta said Okah's release meant it must now be time for the rebels to end their campaign, known as

Gallup Poll: Ousted leader with 46 pct approval

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras – More results from a Gallup survey in Honduras were published Wednesday, showing ousted President Manuel Zelaya remains more popular than his interim replacement Roberto Micheletti.

The nationwide survey — which was done after Zelaya was sent into forced exile in a military coup — shows Zelaya with 46 percent favorable and 44 unfavorable, compared to 30 favorable and 49 unfavorable for Micheletti.

Earlier findings from the same poll were released to The Associated Press by Gallup after La Prensa, a leading Honduran newspaper, published some of the results on Thursday. They showed that 46 percent of Hondurans opposed Zelaya's removal, 41 percent approved of it and 13 percent were unsure or declined to answer.

The face-to-face survey of 1,204 adults in all but

two states showed Hondurans evenly divided on Zelaya himself, close to findings of a similar poll four months ago in which positive views outpaced negative by 4 percentage points.

The survey also asked Hondurans whether they felt Zelaya's removal was justified because he had pushed to add a question on a national ballot about whether to have a constitutional assembly, which the nation's highest court had ruled to be unconstitutional. Forty-one percent of respondents said this did justify his removal, while 28 percent said it didn't and 31 percent were unsure or declined to answer.

The survey was done from June 30 to July 4 and had an error margin of 2.8 percentage points, according to CID-Gallup, which is based in Costa Rica. □



An armed fighter from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, in the troubled Nigerian region. Nigeria's main militant group on Wednesday declared a 60-day truce in its "oil war" with the government after the release of its leader Henry Okah under an amnesty deal.

(AFP/File/Pius Utomi Ekpei)

"Hurricane Moses". "In that light, we want to once again call on our people to halt all forms of economic

sabotage presently going on through Hurricane Moses", the Ijaw Youths Campaign for Peace said in a statement. □

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Favre steps up workouts as 'time running out' on decision

HATTIESBURG-, Miss. (AP) -- Brett Favre acknowledged he's "running out of time" to decide whether he'll play for the Minnesota Vikings this season.

The quarterback told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he'll give the Vikings an answer on whether he'll play by the July 30 start of training camp. Favre has been working out with the Oak Grove High School football team three days a week all summer, but added a Sunday workout this week.

"There's two weeks left and I'm doing everything I can," Favre said. "I was down here Sunday morning working out. I'm trying to get everything to where I feel 100 percent when I go in. I can't go in any less. When you're 39 years old, it's hard enough. But it's getting there."

The former Packers and Jets quarterback said surgery to

repair a biceps tendon in his throwing arm was successful and that he has enough velocity to return to the NFL. He's just not sure whether that means he'll be able to compete for an entire season.

"I felt like going to New York last year that I still had it," Favre said. "I didn't know my arm was hurt at the time. So that's what I try to get across to people. I had that fixed, the surgery to fix that, so I'm trying to make sure that if I go back that part is completely resolved."

It sure looked like it Wednesday morning, when a jovial Favre hit a variety of passes to high school and college wide receivers. He was crisp on short timing passes and was hitting receivers in the end zone from about 50 yards away. He attempted a few deep passes off bootlegs and usually hit his targets in stride. Favre's spirals held true and



he proved he still has plenty of zip when he tossed a deep pass to a college receiver who dropped by to work out. The pass split the receiver's hands and hit him in the face. □

WNBA star Taurasi facing extreme DUI

Plus other traffic charges



PHOENIX (AP) -- Mercury star Diana Taurasi faces three drunken driving related charges, including extreme DUI, for a July 2 incident in which she also was cited for speeding.

A Phoenix police report

released Tuesday shows Taurasi's blood-alcohol level was 0.17 percent, or more than twice the Arizona legal limit of 0.08 percent.

The 27-year-old guard was cited hours after she scored 22 points in the Mercury's

93-81 victory over the Seattle Storm.

Taurasi pleaded not guilty to the DUI charges and not responsible to the speeding citation.

A police officer who stopped Taurasi's vehicle after seeing it drift outside a traffic lane near downtown Phoenix claims she was driving nearly 20 mph over the 35 mph limit.

Her next scheduled court date is July 22.

"We're aware of the recent reports in regards to the situation with Diana Taurasi," the Mercury said in a statement.

"Our organization takes these matters very seriously. We have discussed the matter internally and determined that until all the facts are known to us, it would be inappropriate to announce a particular course of action."

Martinez signs with Phils

Hits 15-day DL with mild shoulder strain

PHILADELPHIA - Pedro Martinez is returning to the major leagues.

Martinez agreed to a contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said Wednesday.

The team put the three-time Cy Young winner on the 15-day disabled list with a mild shoulder strain. It has not been determined when he will begin a rehab assignment. Terms of the contract were not disclosed but the deal is reportedly worth \$1 million for one year.

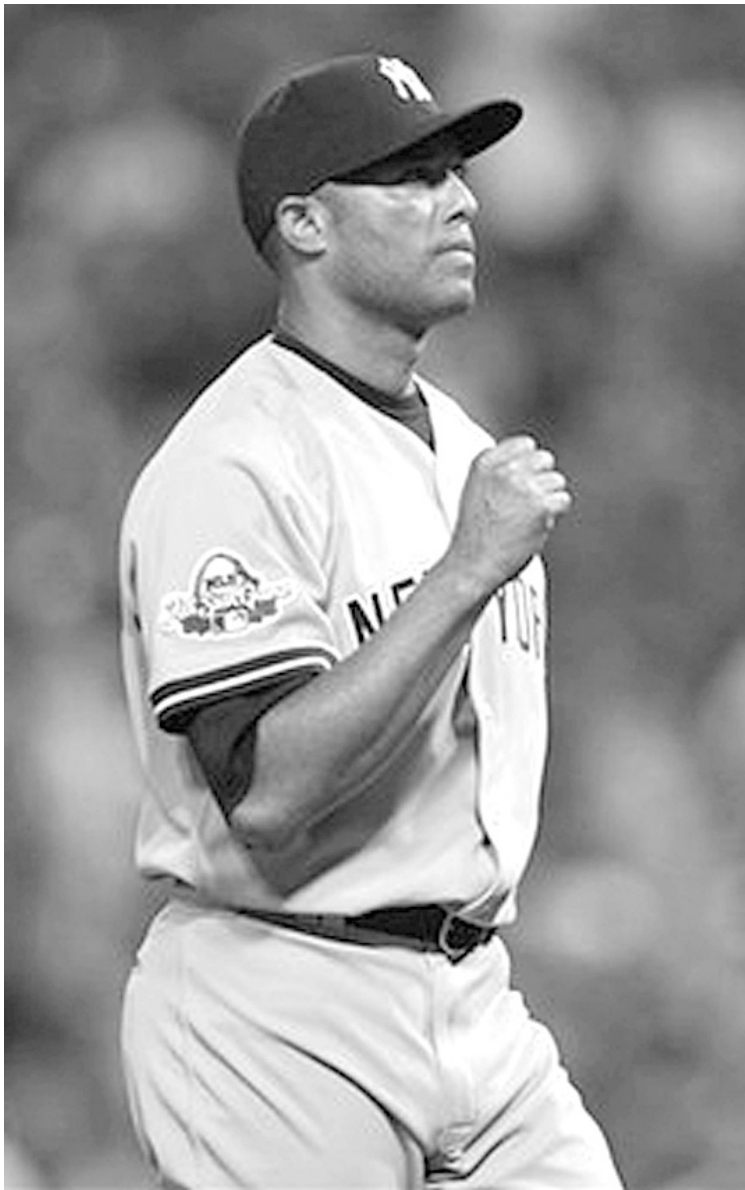
The 37-year-old Martinez went 5-6 with a 5.61 ERA for the New York Mets last year. The free agent pitched in the World Baseball Classic before this season.

The defending World Series champion Phillies have been hurt by injuries to their starting rotation. No. 2 starter Brett Myers had hip surgery in June.



Antonio Bastardo, who replaced Myers, landed on the disabled list after making five starts. The NL East leaders already have used nine starters through 86 games. They used only seven starters last season. Martinez is 214-99 with a 2.91 ERA in 17 seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Montreal, Boston and the Mets. He helped the Red Sox win the World Series in 2004. □

Mariano Rivera sets record with 4th All-Star save



ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Mariano Rivera is a big reason the American League is on such a roll in All-Star games. It helps when the ninth inning is never a problem.

Baseball's most dominant closer set a record with his fourth All-Star save Tuesday night, getting three quick outs to preserve a 4-3 victory over the NL at Busch Stadium. "Beautiful game," Rivera said. "All these guys are stars. So you better bring your 'A' game."

With its seventh straight win, the AL improved to 12-0-1 since 1996 -- the longest unbeaten streak in All-Star history.

Rivera is unmatched, too. The New York Yankees reliever broke the All-Star saves mark he previously shared with Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley, just the latest impressive line on a remarkable resume.

Amazingly, he's pretty much done it all with one nasty pitch -- his famous cut fastball.

month. With a total of 505, he ranks second on the career list to Brewers closer Trevor Hoffman (574), who also pitched Tuesday night.

Hoffman, however, squandered a chance to end the NL drought three years ago in Pittsburgh, where he gave up Michael Young's go-ahead, two-run triple with two outs in the ninth.

Rivera saved that game and has been flawless in the Midsummer Classic, also converting chances in 1997 and 2005. The right-hander hasn't allowed a run in eight All-Star innings.

"I'm used to seeing it," Yankees teammate Derek Jeter said. "I've been seeing it for 17 years now. Nothing he does surprises me."

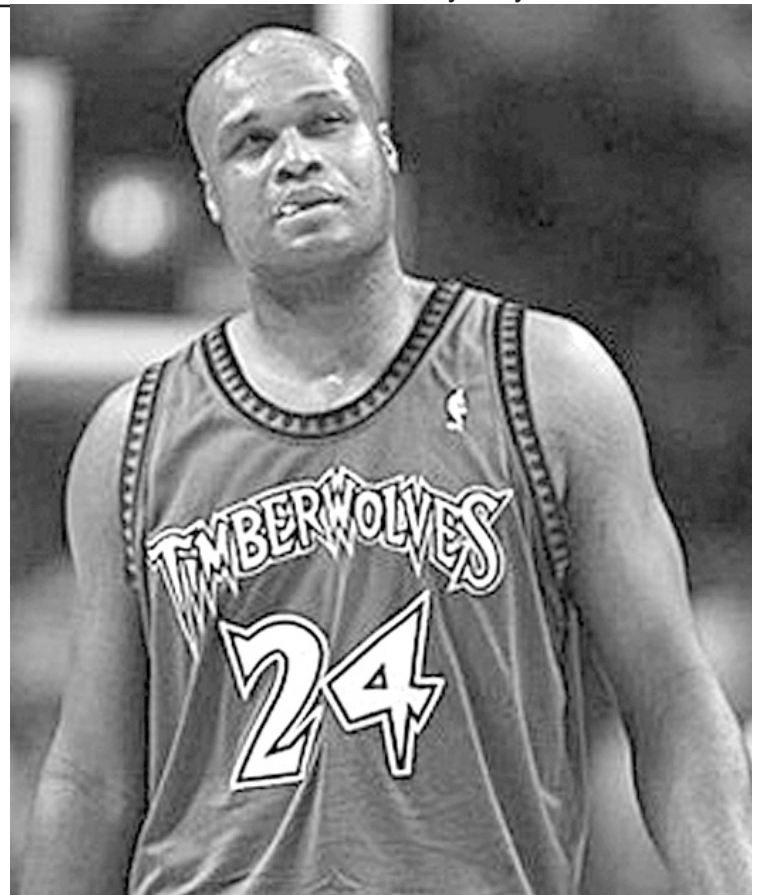
Under the spotlight, nobody is better than Rivera. In addition to his All-Star record, he also owns the postseason mark with 34 saves.

He's showing no signs of slowing down, either. Quiet, humble and unassuming, Rivera is 1-2 with a 2.43 ERA and 23 saves in 24 chances this year. In 36 games, he has 43 strikeouts and three walks -- one intentional.

"I just try to do my job -- make sure I get three outs before they score a run," he said. "That was basically it." □

"It was great," Rivera said. "I think our guys gave me the opportunity to be there and I had to come in and shut it down."

The 39-year-old Rivera earned his 500th save last



Ex-star Walker in gambling trouble

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Former NBA star Antoine Walker is facing criminal charges over \$822,500 in gambling debts to three Las Vegas casinos.

Documents provided Tuesday by the Clark County district attorney accuse the 32-year-old Walker of three felony counts of writing bad checks. Prosecutors say he failed to make good on 10 checks totaling \$1 million written to Caesars Palace, Planet Hollywood and the Red Rock Resort.

Walker's agent and a lawyer in Las Vegas didn't immediately respond Tuesday to messages.

Prosecutor Bernie Zadrowski told the Las Vegas Sun that Walker repaid \$178,000 of the debts incurred last July to January.

Walker last played for the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2008. He was an All-Star with the Boston Celtics and won an NBA championship in 2006 with the Miami Heat.

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Los Angeles Lakers pull offer to Lamar Odom

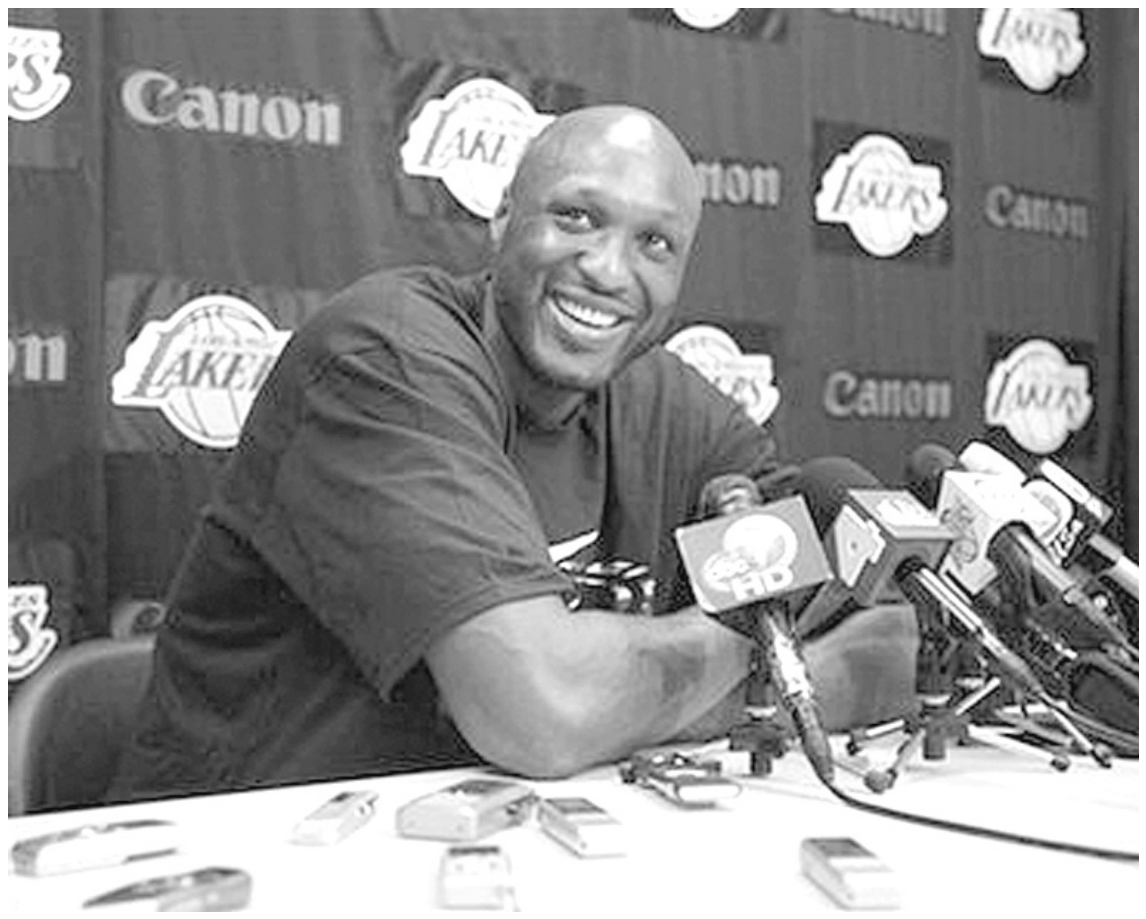
LOS ANGELES- Lakers owner Jerry Buss, an avid poker player, called Lamar Odom's bluff at the negotiating table Tuesday, following through with his threat to pull the offer to Odom. The Lakers admitted that the offer Buss presented to Odom and his representatives has been available for over a week, but that because the unrestricted free agent never responded, Buss grew upset and broke off all negotiations.

"Yes, we have taken the deal off the table," Lakers public relations director John Black said. "Talks have broken down for the time being." Black was asked if talks could resume in the future. "That's within the realm of possibility," he said.

Lakers team officials, who were not authorized to speak about the negotiations, said Buss offered Odom a deal for \$9 million a season for four years at \$36 million, or \$10 million a season over three years for a total of \$30 million. Odom and his agent, Jeff Schwartz, were looking for \$10 million a year over five seasons.

Neither Schwartz nor Odom could be reached for comment Tuesday. Team officials also said Buss was not happy that Odom and Schwartz have been talking with the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat President Pat Riley about a deal, but have refused to talk to the Lakers. The Heat and Mavericks can offer Odom only the mid-level exception of \$5.8 million, but can give him a five-year deal up to \$34 million. Many in the Lakers' organization believe that Odom wants to accept Buss' offer -- and so do those close to Odom -- but he has failed to convince his agent.

If the two sides do begin negotiating again, Lakers sources said Buss, if he's willing to talk, will lower his offer to Odom. Those same sources said Buss is a man of principle who sticks by his decision. Those sources were mindful that when Shaquille O'Neal said during an exhibition game in Hawaii in 2003, "Now, you're gonna pay me," while looking for a contract extension, Buss was angry and never forgot that. After the 2004 season,



Buss traded O'Neal to the Heat, in a deal that brought Odom to the Lakers. It was widely known that Odom, who will be 30 in November, would have to take a pay cut because of his age, the declining economy and the small number of teams that were far enough under the NBA salary cap to make a legitimate offer to him. He was on the Lakers' books for \$14.1 million last season, the final year of a six-year, \$63-million contract he

signed with Miami in 2003. But the Lakers felt as if they made a fair offer to Odom, Lakers sources said, and are baffled as to why he didn't accept it. Now it might be too late to get a deal done. Odom proved his worth during the Lakers' championship run in the playoffs by averaging 12.3 points, third-best on the team, and 9.1 rebounds, second-best on the team. He averaged 32 minutes a game in the playoffs, a lot

of it because center Andrew Bynum was either in foul trouble or ineffective.

In those cases, Pau Gasol moved to center, Odom came off the bench to play power forward and the Lakers were often a better team. Odom was solid against Orlando in the NBA Finals, averaging 13.4 points and 7.8 rebounds. He had 17 points and 10 rebounds in Game 5 as the Lakers clinched the title with a 99-86 victory. □

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Defensive whiz Crawford captures All-Star MVP

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Carl Crawford raced back to the left-field fence and leaped, his glove barely extending over the 8-foot wall.

For a moment, everyone waited. And then the Tampa Bay speedster raised his mitt for all to see -- yup, he caught it! Crawford made a timely grab and snatched the All-Star MVP award Tuesday night, robbing Brad Hawpe of a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning of the American League's 4-3 victory over the NL.

"He hit it pretty good off the bat and I didn't think it was going to carry that far," Crawford said. "I don't think I've ever even robbed a home run before. Picked a good time to do it tonight."

Making his third All-Star appearance, Crawford was elected by his fellow players as a reserve. He came off the bench as a pinch hitter in the fifth and singled his first time up before finishing 1 for 3.

Crawford became the first Tampa Bay player to take home MVP honors at the All-Star game.

"It feels great to help the team win," he said.

Considered one of the best defensive outfielders in baseball, the 27-year-old Crawford leads the majors with 44 stolen bases. He is batting .309 with eight homers, 39 RBIs and 58 runs for the AL champion Rays.

A three-sport star in high school, Crawford was so talented that he considered playing basketball at UCLA or option quarterback for Nebraska.

But he stuck with baseball, and it's proved to be a great choice. His outstanding catch helped the AL improve to 12-0-1 in the last 13 All-Star games -- including seven straight victories. "That's part of my game, playing defense," Crawford said. "You can bring that to the field every day."

Asked if the catch Tuesday night was his best ever, Crawford was quick to respond.

"It's got to be the top play," he said. "I was over the wall. It would've been a home run."

Waiting near the mound to receive his award, Crawford received warm hugs from several Tampa Bay teammates, including first baseman Carlos Pena. □

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EEUU negocia bases militares en Colombia

BOGOTÁ (AP) - Estados Unidos y Colombia están finalizando un acuerdo por medio del cual ampliarán la presencia militar estadounidense en el país latinoamericano, incluyendo misiones de interceptación de drogas de las fuerzas aéreas con sede en el valle central del país.

Ambos bandos dicen que esperan que una quinta ronda de negociaciones previstas para este mes en Bogotá cierren un contrato de arrendamiento de 10 años.

Opositores al acuerdo, sin embargo, temen que un mayor papel estadounidense en el mayor país productor de cocaína del mundo implique a Washington de forma más intensa en un complicado conflicto y provoque problemas con los vecinos izquierdistas de Colombia.

En una audiencia pública, surgida ante las críticas por el secreto que ha rodeado las discusiones, los ministros del Interior, Fabio Valencia Cossio, el canciller Jaime Bermúdez y el ministro encargado de Defensa, general Freddy Padilla, defendieron la negociación como parte clave de la lucha contra el narcotráfico y el “terrorismo” como denomina Bogotá, Washington y Europa a grupos de las guerrillas.

A los Estados Unidos “sencillamente no les estamos cediendo, ni en propiedad transitoria siquiera, un pedazo de nuestro territorio”, dijo Padilla en la audiencia. Aseguró que bajo el acuerdo que se

negocia Estados Unidos no podrá usar la fuerza dentro de territorio colombiano y que todas las actividades deberán ser autorizadas por el gobierno de Bogotá.

El canciller, a su turno, añadió que el acuerdo contempla que los vuelos estadounidenses no cruzarán las fronteras de esta nación andina.

Entre los críticos “algunos en estas discusiones han querido, si se quiere, despertar la sensibilidad eventual de terceros países frente a la presencia o cooperación de Estados Unidos en Colombia y yo quisiera ser muy claro en esta materia, ya lo dije, pero lo repito: esto es un acuerdo que tiene alcance exclusivo en territorio colombiano”, dijo el ministro de Exteriores.

La mayor parte de los detalles de las negociaciones son secretos y funcionarios estadounidenses no ofrecieron comentarios y sólo confirmaron la próxima tanda de negociaciones.

Otros funcionarios militares colombianos y civiles familiares con las negociaciones dijeron a la AP que el actual borrador del acuerdo especifica “visitas” más frecuentes de aviones y barcos estadounidenses, que serán recibidos en tres bases aéreas y dos bases navales, en la Bahía de Málaga, en el Pacífico; y en Cartagena, en el Caribe.

Los funcionarios, que hablaron en condición de anonimato debido a las negociaciones abiertas, dijeron que el centro del acuerdo es la base aérea de

Palanquero, en Puerto Salgar, en el río Magdalena, a unos 100 kilómetros (60 millas) al noroeste de Bogotá, dijo Padilla.

Un proyecto de ley aprobado por la cámara baja estadounidense y pendiente de aprobación en el Senado destinaría 46 millones de dólares para obras de construcción en Palanquero, que ya cuenta con una pista de aterrizaje de 3.500 metros, dos enormes hangares y es la base del principal de los aviones de combate de Colombia. El dinero sería ofrecido 15 días después de que se firme un acuerdo, de acuerdo con un funcionario legislativo estadounidense que habló a condición de anonimato porque carece de autorización para comentar públicamente tales asuntos.

Las misiones de interceptación que ahora asumiría Palanquero se centraban en Manta, Ecuador, en el Pacífico, donde cerca de unos 220 estadounidenses comparten el espacio en ese aeropuerto internacional y sólo podían tener ocho aviones. A las naves de monitoreo E-3 AWAC y P-3 Orión que volaban desde Manta --que cierra sus operaciones esta semana-- se les atribuye 60% de las interdicciones de drogas en esa zona del Pacífico.

La embajada de Estados Unidos y Robert Appin, vocero del Comando Sur de Estados Unidos, en Miami, declinaron comentar las negociaciones con Colombia. □

Hallado el esqueleto de un mujer sacrificada en una ciudadela preinca de Perú

LIMA (AFP) - Arqueólogos peruanos hallaron los restos de una mujer de la cultura preinca Chimú sacrificada en la ciudadela de barro de Chan Chan, al norte del país. Lo relevante es que el esqueleto se encuentra entero.

“Se trata de los restos de una mujer que murió en circunstancias de un sacrificio”, dijo el martes a la AFP el investigador Arturo Paredes desde la ciudad de Trujillo (500 km al norte de Lima).

El hallazgo se produjo durante los trabajos de restauración de un muro perimetral del Palacio Ñain-An (Casa de las Aves), en la ciudadela de adobe Chan Chan, ubicada en las afueras de Trujillo. “Tiene un pie cercenado y aparece de cúbito dorsal, mide 1,55 cm de altura y en el cuello se observan elementos de tela amarrados”, señaló el estudioso, miembro de la Unidad Ejecutora del Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC).

Las investigaciones preliminares indican que el cuerpo perteneció a una mujer de entre 20 y 30 años de la cultura de Chimú que se desarrolló entre los años 1100 y 1500. Los restos serán llevados al laboratorio del INC donde los especialistas determinarán con mayor precisión la información en torno al hallazgo. La ciudadela de Chan Chan, ubicada frente al océano Pacífico, fue declarada Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad por la Unesco en 1986. □



Un arqueólogo contempla los restos del esqueleto de la mujer de la cultura preinca Chimú hallado en la ciudadela de barro de Chan Chan, situada al norte de Perú. Foto:Óscar Paz/AFP



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